

Remarks

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because the "ring seal 33" was referenced with respect to Figure 2 at lines 27-28 of page 10, but is not shown in Figure 2. In response, lines 27-28 have been amended to insert "annular piston 23" in place of "ring seal 33". The undersigned apologizes for this error and any confusion caused thereby.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 3 were objected to because of various informalities. In response, Claim 1 has been amended to include - - a - - before "second clutch" in line 10, Claim 3 has been amended to omit the parenthetically enclosed phrase "output side" in lines 3-4 and lines 6-7, and Claim 3 has been further amended in line 5 to read - - second - - instead of "first". The Examiner is thanked for these suggestions.

Claim 8 stands objected to as being of improper dependent form. In response, Claim 8 has been amended to depend from Claim 6 instead of Claim 7. The Applicant respectfully submits that such amendment overcomes the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

Claims 6-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, in Claim 6, the last line was indicated as being incorrect since the second piston applies force to the fourth pressure plate but not to the third pressure plate as recited. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner and Claim 6 has been amended to remove reference to the third plate in the last line.

In each of Claims 9 and 10, reference to "the chamber" was indicated as being vague inasmuch as both a "working chamber" and a "chamber for compensating" were previously recited. In response, Claim 9 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the "chamber for compensating" is the proper chamber for antecedence.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiners identification of these vagaries and apologizes for any confusion caused thereby.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Greenlee '198. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. With regard to Claim 1, while Greenlee does show the elements that the Examiner identifies in the Office Action (Paper mailed 9/9/04), Greenlee does not teach the advantageous arrangement of the elements as described and claimed in Applicant's invention. Specifically, Claim 1 of Applicant's invention recites that the first and second annular piston-cylinder units be "located radially inward" from the first and second friction discs, respectively. Greenlee does not teach such an arrangement but instead radially locates the units 61, 64 and the friction discs at the same distance. As such, Greenlee does not teach the Applicant's invention in Claim 1 and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection and allow Claims 1-4.

Turning now to Claim 6, the Examiner notes that Greenlee teaches "third and fourth pressure plates 41, 42 arranged on the radially outer portion of the respective first and second pistons". The Applicants respectfully submit

that Greenlee describes elements 41, 42 as pistons and not as pressure plates. Greenless states as follows:

Also mounted within and drivingly connected to the clutch casing 20 are the pair of opposed, axially shiftable, pressure fluid actuated pistons 41, and 42 respectively. Pistons 41 and 42 are adapted to be selectively engaged with the opposite sides of the reaction plate 38 through friction discs 46, 56 respectively. Compression type spring means 43 normally urge pistons 41 and 42 away from reaction plate 38. [column 3, lines 59-68]

As such, Greenlee does not teach or suggest multiple pressure plates as claimed by the Applicant, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection and allow Claim 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Greenlee '198 in view of Smith '483. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 5 should be allowed since it depends from Claim 1, which Applicant contends is allowable over the cited art for the reasons stated above.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 as set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has added independent Claim 11 which meets the requirements so stated by the Examiner. Claims 12-14 have also been added, and the Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance as dependent on independent Claim 11.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that the information disclosure statement filed on October 5, 2001, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Particularly, no copies of the two EPO documents were found in the file, but the Examiner did find a copy of EP 1052421 A1, which was considered in the examination. However, EP 0314636 could not be located and was not considered. The undersigned apologizes for this oversight. In response, a copy of EP 0314636 is included with this response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the unintentionally omitted document in his further examination.

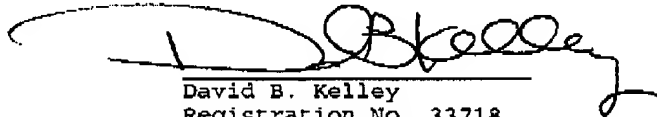
The Examiner also indicated that the information disclosure statement filed on October 5, 2001 failed to identify the publication date of the foreign documents. Again, the undersigned apologizes for this error. In response, an amended information disclosure statement is included in this response and includes the publication date of the foreign references and copies thereof. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these documents as well in his further examination.

Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is

courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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